

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03591 01 OF 03 101908Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SSO-00 /047 W

-----102037Z 120513 /63

O R 101810Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7228

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 3591

LONDON FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (CYRUS VANCE) SP, UK

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER
PRESIDENT ASAD

ONLY TEXT AVAILABLE IS CARTER/ASAD REMARKS TO NEW CONFERENCE.
TRANSCRIPT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

PRESIDENT CARTER: IT IS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE AND HOPE
THAT I COME TO GENEVA TO MEET WITH THE GREAT PRESIDENT OF SYRIA,
PRESIDENT ASSAD. AS A LEADER OF ONE OF THE GREAT COUNTRIES IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, I LOOK TO HIM FOR GUIDANCE AND ADVICE AND FOR SUPPORT
AS ALL OF US SEARCH FOR PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING PEACE IN THAT
IMPORTANT AND TROUBLED PART OF THE WORLD.

PRESIDENT ASSAD HAS A GREAT ROLE TO PLAY BECAUSE OF HIS EX-
PERIENCE, THE GREATNESS OF HIS COUNTRY, HIS INTEREST IN AND
SENSITIVITY ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS OUTSIDE HIS REGION, AND BECAUSE
OF HIS ABILITY TO BRING TOGETHER DIFFERENT PEOPLES WHO IN THE
PAST HAVE BEEN UNFRIENDLY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AND AT ODDS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03591 01 OF 03 101908Z POSS DUPE

THIS IS A YEAR WHEN WE ARE BLESSED WITH STRONG AND MODERATE
LEADERS IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN REGION. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS A
YEAR OF HOPE FOR SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS, BUT IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED
WITH CLOSE CONSULTATION, OPEN MINDS AND A DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED
IN SPITE OF VERY DIFFICULT OBSTACLES. I HAVE ALREADY MET WITH THE
LEADERS OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND JORDAN, AND THIS MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT ASSAD WILL HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND THE COMMON AGREEMENTS

THAT EXIST AND THE POTENTIALS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES
THAT STILL REMAIN.

THE GOODWILL OF PRESIDENT ASSAD HAS ALREADY BEEN DEMONSTRATED.
FOR MANY YEARS HE HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER IN THE SEARCH FOR
PEACE, WORKING CLOSELY WITH MY PREDECESSORS IN THE WHITE HOUSE
AND WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND OTHERS, AS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN
MADE.

WE HAVE NO REGIONAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS YEAR'S DELIBERATIONS,
BUT WE HOPE TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY WHO CAN HAVE INFLUENCE
ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THE OTHER NATIONS TRUST US TO BE FAIR,
TO BE OBJECTIVE, TO BE TRUTHFUL, TO BE DETERMINED.

FOLLOWING MY OWN MEETINGS WITH THESE GREAT LEADERS WE WILL ASK
OUR OWN SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS VANCE, TO VISIT THE MIDDLE
EASTERN REGION AGAIN TO CONSULT MORE CLOSELY WITH THE NATIONS
INVOLVED IN FUTURE DELIBERATIONS--AND I BELIEVE THAT IF I CAN
LEARN FROM PRESIDENT ASSAD TODAY--THAT THAT WILL BE ANOTHER
MAJOR STEP TOWARD THE PROGRESS THAT WE ALL HOPE TO SEE.

THERE MUST BE FAIRNESS; THERE MUST BE SOME FLEXIBILITY; THER
MUST BE A FOREGETTING ABOUT PAST DIFFERENCES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS;
THERE MUST BE DETERMINATION; THERE MUST BE A RESOLUTION OF THE
PALESTINE PROBLEM AND A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS; THERE
MUST BE SOME RESOLUTION OF BORDER DISPUTES; AND THERE ALSO MUST BE
AN ASSURANCE OF PERMANENT AND REAL PEACE WITH GUARANTEES FOR THE
FUTURE SECURITY OF THESE COUNTRIES, WHICH ALL CAN TRUST. WE
WILL ADD OUR GOOD OFFICES, AS REQUESTED, BUT I AM VERY MUCH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03591 01 OF 03 101908Z POSS DUPE

AWARE THAT THE AGREEMENT CAN ONLY BE PERMANENT AND CAN ONLY BE
INITIATED IF THE PARTIES WHO LIVE THERE REACH AN UNDERSTANDING
WITH ONE ANOTHER.

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEP THANKS TO PRESIDENT ASSAD FOR BEING
WILLING TO COME TO GENEVA TO MEET WITH ME, AND I WILL TRY TO
CAPITALIZE ON THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WHICH HE AND I HAVE ALREADY
ESTABLISHED. AND I BELIEVE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE
FRUITFUL BECAUSE OF HIS GOODWILL, HIS EXPERIENCE, HIS KNOWLEDGE,
HIS SENSITIVITY, AND HIS GRACIOUSNESS IN MEETING ME HERE.

SO THANK YOU AGAIN, PRESIDENT ASSAD. I HOPE THAT THIS DAY'S
DELIBERATIONS WILL BE A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST WHICH CAN HELP TO GUARANTEE PEACE AND PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD.

THANK YOU SIR.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03591 02 OF 03 101954Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SSO-00 /047 W

-----102040Z 121137 /63

O R 101810Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7229

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 GENEVA 3591

PRESIDENT ASSAD: BEFORE I READ THE PREPARED SHORT STATEMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS WARM EXPRESSIONS WHICH HE HAS KINDLY OFFERED, AND ALSO TO THANK HIM FOR HIS UNTIRING, PERSISTENT EFFORTS WHICH HE MANIFESTED TOWARDS REACHING, ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE AREA WHICH HE HAS MANIFESTED SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE.

IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN THE PAST, AND WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY EXIST TO SOME EXTENT IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE AND FOR A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, I MUST SAY, IN SPITE OF ALL OF THIS, THAT TAKEN IN THEIR TOTALITY, THE EXPRESSIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE SUBJECT HAVE CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF FAITH AND ENCOURAGING ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM.

AS I SAID AT THE AIRPORT IN GENEVA YESTERDAY ON ARRIVAL, I BELIEVE THAT THE TARGET WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS IN MIND, THE TARGET WHICH WE HAVE IN MIND, NAMELY, THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN THE AREA, IS A NOBLE TARGET, IS OF SUCH A NOBILITY AS A TARGET THAT IT SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD. AND AS LONG AS WE HELD TENACIOUSLY TO SOME MORAL VALUES, AS WE DO THAT, WE ARE BOUND TO STRIVE VERY HARD FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE SOLUTION OF CAUSES ALL AROUND THE WORLD, CAUSES THAT ARE WORTHY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03591 02 OF 03 101954Z

AND, OF COURSE, WE MENTIONED FOREMOST AMONG THESE THE CAUSE THAT

WE ARE ENGAGED IN--TRYING TO SEEK A SOLUTION FOR OUR AREA.

AS LONG AS THESE ARE THE PRINCIPLES AND WE MEET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THESE PERNICIOUS, DIFFICULT, COMPLICATED PROBLEMS--FOREMOST AMONG WHICH IS THAT OF THE MIDDLE EAST--AS LONG AS THESE LEADERS, WITH THAT MORAL COURAGE, CAN MEET TOGETHER, SO MUCH MORE WOULD WE BE ARMED WITH THE POSSIBILITIES OF FINDING A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION.

ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT ALWAYS WISE OR USEFUL TO PREJUDGE THINGS AND BE AHEAD OF EVENTS, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MYSELF RIGHT NOW, ALTHOUGH THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND MYSELF IS STILL AT ITS FIRST BLUSH, SO TO SPEAK, THE FIRST FEW MINUTES--I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, NEVERTHELESS, THAT WE ARE GREATLY OPTIMISTIC.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM HAS BECOME AXIOMATIC, NOR DO WE MEAN THAT THERE IS, OR THERE SUDDENLY HAS APPEARED A MAGIC WAN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. WHAT IT DOES PROVE IS THAT OBVIOUSLY THERE IS THE WILL TO LOOK FOR A SOLUTION, SOLUTION WHICH IS JUST AND LASTING.

IN THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT YOU KNOW THAT AS A RESULT OF CONTACTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND MYSELF WOULD MEET TODAY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE MET. AFTER A FEW MINUTES, WE SHALL BEGIN OUR TALKS AND SHORTLY WE SHALL DISCUSS THE MAIN SUBJECT, WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO ALL, NAMELY, HOW TO MOVE TOWARDS A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

AGAIN, I WOULD THANK PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS COMING TO GENEVA FOR THIS MEETING.

REGARDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OUR PROBLEM, WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS DECLARED IS THAT A GRAVE SITUATION THREATENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY EXISTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03591 02 OF 03 101954Z

IN OUR REGION.

THIS SITUATION ARISES FROM THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF THE ARAB TERRITORIES WHICH ISRAEL SEIZED BY FORCE IN 1967, AS WELL AS FROM ISRAEL'S DENIAL OF THE LEGITIMATE RECOGNITION OF THE VARIOUS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE. THE FACT THAT THIS OCCUPATION AND THE HOMELESSNESS OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE CONTINUE INEVITABLY MEANS THE PROLONGATION OF A GRAVE SITUATION THAT THREATENS TO RENEW THE WARS AND TRAGEDIES FROM WHICH OUR REGION HAS SUFFERED FOR 30 YEARS.

WE IN SYRIA HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED OUR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH FULL FACILITY IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR REGION

ENJOY THE PEACE WHICH IT NEEDS.
THIS PEACE WOULD SERVE NOT ONLY THE INTERESTS OF OUR REGION,
BUT MOST OF THE WORLD AT LARGE. WE SELCOME ANY SINCERE EFFORT
THAT MAY HELP ESTABLISH A JUST PEACE IN OUR GEGION AND BELIEVE
THAT THE SINCERE EFFORTS WHICH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CAN
EXERT IN THIS FIELD ARE BASIC AND IMPORTANT.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03591 03 OF 03 101955Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SSO-00 /047 W

-----102259Z 121184 /66

O R 101810Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7230

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 GENEVA 3591

AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STARTED A SERIES OF TALKS
WITH A NUMBER OF ARAB LEADERS AIMED TO KNOW AT FIRST HAND THE
FACTS OF THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO PROMULGATE AN AMERICAN
STAND AND AS A NUMBER OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE DECLARED, IN
ORDER TO USE THE GREAT INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES TO HELP
FIND A SOLUTION BASED ON JUSTICE FOR THE EXISTING CONFLICT IN
THE MIDDLE EAST.

MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TODAY IS WITHIN THIS CONTEXT.
I SINCERELY HOPE THAT OUR TALKS WILL ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PEACE, WILL THROW LIGHT ON THE JUSTICE OF OUR CAUSE, AND
WILL PAVE THE WAY WITH CLEAR IDEAS FOR THE HOLDING OF THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHICH, AS IS GENERALLY AGREED, PROVIDES A
SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST--ON THE MIDDLE EAST--
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WE WILL SPEND THREE DAYS IN SWITZERLAND, DURING WHICH I SHALL
VISIT BERN AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT FURGLER, WHO HAS
KINDLY COME TO GENEVA AND TO WHOM I HAVE PAID A COURTESY CALL THIS
MORNING. WE ARE HAPPY TO BE IN SWITZERLAND.

FINALLY, I WISH TO THANK AGAIN PRESIDENT CARTER AND HOPE THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03591 03 OF 03 101955Z POSS DUPE

WE WILL MEET WITH SUCCESS IN OUR EFFORT.

PRESIDENT CARTER: ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT ASSAD AND I HAVE ONLY BEEN
TOGETHER FOR A FEW MINUTES, WE HAVE REACHED A VERY IMPORTANT
AGREEMENT IN THIS BRIEF TIME. WE HAVE NOTICED THAT AT THE
END OF EACH DAY'S DELIBERATIONS, THAT THOSE WHO TRAVEL WITH US
CAN VISIT THE LOCAL NIGHT SPOTS AND HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF
PLEASURE. (LAUGHTER)

WE HAVE ALSO NOTICED THAT WHEN WE GET OFF THE ELEVATOR, EVERYONE
ELSE ENTERS THE ROOM, WE HAVE TO COME IN LAST.

WE HAVE NOTICED THAT WHEN WE ARE HAVING A VERY CONGENIAL
CONVERSATION THAT PROTOCOL OFFICERS ORDER US AS TO WHAT WE
SHOULD DO NEXT. AND WHEN WE FINISH OUR MAJOR SUCCESS OR FAILURE,
WE REPORT TO THE ULTIMATE MASTERS--THE PRESS. (LAUGHTER)

WE HAVE ALSO NOTICED THAT OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS TRAVEL FREQUENTLY
TO DELIGHTFUL PLACES IN THE WORLD AND ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF
FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

SO PRESIDENT ASSAD AND I HAVE AGREED TO BEGIN A MOVEMENT TO
ESTABLISH FOR THE FIRST TIME HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PRESIDENTS.
(LAUGHTER) (END TEXT)

UNQUOTE
SORENSEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA03591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1072
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770575/aaaacmzi.tel
Line Count: 311
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e54c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2586910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER PRESIDENT ASAD ONLY TEXT AVAILABLE IS CARTER/ASAD
REMARKS TO NEW
TAGS: OVIP, SP, UK, (VANCE, CYRUS)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e54c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009